

if he bites, a part of himself within himself  
 then threatens,  
 as his mother, to bite the biting self. These early  
 phantasies  
 and feelings have very little relation to the  
 real parents,  
 but are intensely vivid and real to the child's  
 mind. Before  
 very long they become shut off, through the  
 mechanism  
 of repression, from the rest of the developing  
 ego and the  
 conscious mind.

What are these intense wishes which fill the  
 child's mind  
 in his earliest days and give rise to phantasies of  
 retribution ?  
 The suggested answers to this question may at  
 first sight  
 seem very strange to many of my readers, since it  
 is extremely  
 hard for adults to think away all the ordered  
 knowledge of  
 the external world, and all their organised and  
 tempered  
 control of impulses, and to feel themselves back  
 to the states  
 of mind of the infant when mental life is entirely  
 dominated  
 by crude wishes, and by phantasies built upon  
 actual sensory  
 experiences. Under the conditions of analysis,  
 phantasy  
 states do occur which must approximate to the  
 state of mind  
 of the infant,<sup>1</sup> although of course this can never  
 be recovered  
 in its simple and primitive form. When one  
 remembers,  
 however, that in those early days the  
 outward-turning  
 senses, and particularly those which have to do  
 with ordered  
 relations in time and space, muscular control,  
 touch and  
 vision, are scarcely educated at all, and the  
 outer world  
 thus does not exist at all in ordered form for the  
 infant, it  
 becomes easier to understand that the child's  
 physiological  
 experiences in the narrowest sense, and the  
 feelings and  
 impulses connected with these, must make up  
 the world  
 for him to an extent which never again  
 occurs. First one  
 and then another *locus* of bodily sensation and  
 impulse

provides a nucleus for the mental life, with its own colouring and its own special structure. And this we can in part recapture through all the phantasies of the neurotic and psychotic, correlating them with the observable behaviour of children.

<sup>1</sup> For example, very recently a friend of my own, who is undergoing analysis, suddenly startled herself from a half-dozing state one early morning by a jump and a sharp cry which brought with it the feeling of a biting, attacking movement, a cry that was itself like a bite, and a feeling of being lifted rather roughly and inconsiderately, with a general tone of cold and guilt. Taking all these images and feelings together with relevant associations, they strongly suggested a fragmentary revival of the situation of being lifted up from the bed as an infant and found dirty.